

9.4 Partial Fractions

1

In calculus $\int \frac{dx}{x^2-4}$

one way to simplify $\frac{1}{x^2-4}$ is to break this more complicated integrand into two simple fractions

Observe: $\frac{1}{x^2-4} = \frac{1}{(x+2)(x-2)} = \frac{A}{x+2} + \frac{B}{x-2}$

(i) factor (ii) state the forms

Alg II: $\frac{-1}{4(x+2)} + \frac{1}{4(x-2)}$

Combine these

(ii) Common Denominators

$$\frac{1}{x^2-4} = \frac{A(x-2) + B(x+2)}{(x+2)(x-2)}$$

(iii) Numerators are equal on the LHS and RHS

$$1 = A(x-2) + B(x+2)$$

(iv) separate powers

$$1 = Ax + Bx - 2A + 2B$$

$$0x^1 + 1x^0 = (A+B)x^1 + (2B-2A)x^0$$

In Linear Algebra we show that if $\alpha x^2 + \beta x + \gamma = s x^2 + t x + u$ that $\alpha = s$, $\beta = t$ and $\gamma = u$

LHS RHS

$$\Rightarrow x^1: 0x = (A+B)x$$

$$x^0: 1 = 2B-2A$$

(v) 2 eqns & 2 unknowns

$$\frac{A}{x+2} \left(\frac{x-2}{x-2} \right) + \frac{B}{x-2} \left(\frac{x+2}{x+2} \right)$$

$$= \frac{A(x-2) + B(x+2)}{(x+2)(x-2)}$$

$$\frac{a}{b} \times \frac{c}{d} = \frac{ad+bc}{bd}$$

Let's solve this system:

$$\begin{cases} A + B = 0 & \times 2 \\ -2A + 2B = 1 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} 2A + 2B = 0 \\ -2A + 2B = 1 \end{cases}$$
$$\begin{array}{r} 2A + 2B = 0 \\ + \quad -2A + 2B = 1 \\ \hline 4B = 1 \end{array} \quad \boxed{B = 1/4}$$

But since $A + B = 0$ A is $-1/4$

$$\text{So } \frac{1}{x^2 - 4} = \frac{-1/4}{x+2} + \frac{1/4}{x-2}$$

(vi) Complete the decomposition
i.e. $\frac{1}{x^2 - 4} = -\frac{1}{4(x+2)} + \frac{1}{4(x-2)}$

Partial Fraction Decomposition

EX $\frac{4x+3}{x^2+8x+15} = \frac{4x+3}{(x+3)(x+5)} = \frac{A}{x+3} + \frac{B}{x+5}$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{4x+3}{(x+3)(x+5)} = \frac{A(x+5) + B(x+3)}{(x+3)(x+5)}$$

(iii) Numerators: $4x + 3 = (A+B)x + (5A+3B)$
(iv) Equate Powers: $\begin{cases} x^1: 4 = A+B \\ x^0: 3 = 5A+3B \end{cases} \xrightarrow{\text{(v) solved}} \begin{cases} 4 = A+B \\ -17 = -2B \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} A = -9/2 \\ B = 17/2 \end{cases}$

(vi) Final Form $\frac{4x+3}{x^2+8x+15} = -\frac{9}{2(x+3)} + \frac{17}{2(x+5)}$

EX
* If we have

(3)

$$\frac{4x^2 - 8x + 7}{(x-2)(x+1)(x+3)} = \frac{A}{x-2} + \frac{B}{x+1} + \frac{C}{x+3}$$

$$= \frac{A(x+1)(x+3) + B(x-2)(x+3) + C(x-2)(x+1)}{(x-2)(x+1)(x+3)}$$

$$\underline{4x^2} - \underline{8x} + \underline{7} = \underline{Ax^2} + \underline{4Ax} + \underline{3A} + \underline{Bx^2} + \underline{Bx} - \underline{6B} + \underline{Cx^2} - \underline{Cx} - \underline{2C}$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} x^2: 4 = A + B + C \\ x^1: -8 = 4A + B - C \\ x^0: 7 = 3A - 6B - 2C \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} 3 \times 3 \text{ (see sec 9.2)} \end{array}$$

use matrixcalc.org $\Rightarrow A = \frac{7}{15}, B = -\frac{19}{6}, C = \frac{67}{10}$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{4x^2 - 8x + 7}{(x-2)(x+1)(x+3)} = \frac{7}{15(x-2)} - \frac{19}{6(x+1)} + \frac{67}{10(x+3)}$$

to be continued...

Completes Linear terms, non-repeated

* Repeating Linear fractions

[Ex] $\frac{-5x-19}{(x+4)^2} = \frac{A}{x+4} + \frac{B}{x+4} \quad ? \quad \text{No!}$

(i) form $\frac{-5x-19}{(x+4)^2} = \frac{A}{x+4} + \frac{B}{(x+4)^2}$ ← Top is one degree less than the factor in the bottom.

(ii) common denom
 $\frac{-5x-19}{(x+4)^2} = \frac{A(x+4)}{(x+4)(x+4)} + \frac{B}{(x+4)^2}$

(iii) equate numerators
 $-5x-19 = A(x+4) + B$

(iv) match powers:
 linear $x^1: -5 = A$
 constant $x^0: -19 = 4A + B$

(v) Solve:
 $A = -5, B = -19 - 4(-5) = 1$

(vi) final form:

$$\boxed{\frac{-5x-19}{(x+4)^2} = \frac{-5}{x+4} + \frac{1}{(x+4)^2}}$$

EX

5

$$\frac{2x^2 + 4x - 1}{(x+2)^3} = \frac{A}{(x+2)} + \frac{B}{(x+2)^2} + \frac{C}{(x+2)^3}$$

$$\frac{2x^2 + 4x - 1}{(x+2)^3} = \frac{A(x+2)^2}{(x+2)^3} + \frac{B(x+2)}{(x+2)^3} + \frac{C}{(x+2)^3}$$

$$2x^2 + 4x - 1x^0 = Ax^2 + 4Ax + 4A + Bx + 2B + C$$

$$x^2: \quad \boxed{2 = A} \quad \rightarrow \quad \boxed{B = -4}$$

$$x^1: \quad 4 = 4A + B$$

$$x^0: \quad -1 = 4A + 2B + C$$

$$-1 = 4(2) + 2(-4) + C \rightarrow \boxed{C = -1}$$

final form

$$\frac{2x^2 + 4x - 1}{(x+2)^3} = \frac{2}{x+2} - \frac{4}{(x+2)^2} - \frac{1}{(x+2)^3}$$

EX

$$\frac{x^3 - 5x^2 + 12x + 144}{x^2(x^2 + 12x + 36)}$$

$$\frac{x^3 - 5x^2 + 12x + 144}{x^2(x+6)^2} = \left[\frac{A}{x} + \frac{B}{x^2} + \frac{C}{x+6} + \frac{D}{(x+6)^2} \right]$$

EX

$$\frac{x^4 - 3x^2 + x - 1}{x^4 + 12x^3 + 36x^2}$$

Improper rational expression
So we need to Long divide 1st

$$\begin{array}{r} x \leftarrow 1 \\ x^4 + 12x^3 + 36x^2 + 0x + 0 \overline{) x^4 + 0x^3 - 3x^2 + x - 1} \\ \underline{-(x^4 + 12x^3 + 36x^2 + 0x + 0)} \\ -12x^3 - 39x^2 + x - 1 \end{array}$$

So

$$\frac{x^4 - 3x^2 + x - 1}{x^4 + 12x^3 + 36x^2} = 1 + \frac{-12x^3 - 39x^2 + x - 1}{x^4 + 12x^3 + 36x^2}$$

proper rational exp.

$$\frac{x^4 - 3x^2 + x - 1}{x^4 + 12x^3 + 36x^2} = 1 + \frac{-12x^3 - 39x^2 + x - 1}{x^2(x+6)^2}$$

(i) partial fraction decomposition on the 2nd term only.

$$\frac{-12x^3 - 39x^2 + x - 1}{x^2(x+6)^2} = \frac{A}{x} + \frac{B}{x^2} + \frac{C}{x+6} + \frac{D}{(x+6)^2}$$

⇒ solve this problem

(ii)

$$\frac{x^4 - 3x^2 + x - 1}{x^4 + 12x^3 + 36x^2} = 1 + \frac{\#}{x} + \frac{\#}{x^2} + \frac{\#}{x+6} + \frac{\#}{(x+6)^2}$$

* Irreducible Quadratic Terms

(7)

$$x^2 + 2x + 7 = (x - ?)(x - ?) \quad ? \quad \text{"Prime" can't factor}$$

Fund. Thm of Algebra

$$\text{Polynomials can factor} = (x - r_1)(x - r_2) \dots (x - r_k) \cdot (x^2 + b_1x + c_1)(x^2 + b_2x + c_2) \dots$$

Another version says we can factor those irreducible quadratic factor into conjugate pairs.

$$\text{So } x^2 + b_1x + c_1 = \underbrace{(x - (\alpha + i\beta))(x - (\alpha - i\beta))}_{\text{linear complex conjugate terms.}}$$

We will accept the real irreducible (prime) quadratic terms.

The form for these involves a linear numerator $\nearrow mx+b$

EX

$$\frac{4x^2 + 9x + 23}{(x-1)(x^2 + 6x + 11)} = \frac{A}{x-1} + \frac{Bx+C}{x^2 + 6x + 11}$$

Hint: the numerators are one degree less than the denominators on the RHS.

EX * repeating Quadratic Factor

$$\frac{x^3 + 2x^2 + 4x}{(x^2 + 2x + 9)^2} = \frac{Ax + B}{x^2 + 2x + 9} + \frac{Cx + D}{(x^2 + 2x + 9)^2} \quad (8)$$

EX

$$\frac{x^2 - 3x + 1}{(x - 6)^2 (x^2 + 6)^3} = \frac{A}{x - 6} + \frac{B}{(x - 6)^2} + \frac{Cx + D}{x^2 + 6} + \frac{Ex + F}{(x^2 + 6)^2} + \frac{Gx + H}{(x^2 + 6)^3}$$

EX #49

$$\frac{x^2 + 25}{(x^2 + 3x + 25)^2} = \frac{Ax + B}{x^2 + 3x + 25} + \frac{Cx + D}{(x^2 + 3x + 25)^2}$$

$$\frac{x^2 + 25}{(x^2 + 3x + 25)^2} = \frac{(Ax + B)(x^2 + 3x + 25)}{(x^2 + 3x + 25)^2} + \frac{Cx + D}{(x^2 + 3x + 25)^2}$$

numerators:

$$x^2 + 25 = Ax^3 + 3Ax^2 + 25Ax + Bx^2 + 3Bx + 25B + Cx + D$$

Solve:

$$\begin{array}{lcl} x^3: 0 = A & \rightarrow & A = 0 \\ x^2: 1 = 3A + B & \rightarrow & B = 1 \\ x^1: 0 = 25A + 3B + C & \rightarrow & C = -3 \\ x^0: 25 = 25B + D & \rightarrow & D = 0 \end{array}$$

final form

$$\frac{x^2 + 25}{(x^2 + 3x + 25)^2} = \frac{1}{x^2 + 3x + 25} + \frac{-3x}{(x^2 + 3x + 25)^2}$$

$$= \frac{1}{(x+a)^2 + b}$$